

REMARKS

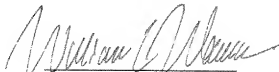
Responsive to the Restriction Requirement mailed October 29, 2010, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse Group I, which encompasses Claims 1, 5-17, and 61 (in part), drawn to a method comprising exposing a stem cell to Activin A for maintenance of an undifferentiated stem cell. To further clarify the subject matter being claimed, Claims 1, 3, 5, 11-12, and 61 have been amended. No new matter is introduced by the amendments or new claims.

The restriction requirement is respectfully traversed on the basis that the nine (9) groups of claims relate to a single general inventive concept because they share a corresponding technical feature MPEP § 1893.03(d). In particular, the common technical feature shared is that each of the groups pertains to the combined used of Activin A optionally with FGF family members and NIC.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Restriction Requirement mailed October 29, 2010. If there are any issues which can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (404) 853-8081. No fees are believed to be due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-5029 (Reference No. 24978-0047).

Respectfully submitted,



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